

## NASA role to continue in 2nd century of flight

### ▲ Celebrating a Century of Achievement in Aviation and Space Flight:

The amazing achievement 100 years ago of Orville and Wilbur Wright's free flight across a North Carolina beach opened a new era in human history. The pioneering breakthroughs that followed have led us through an era of fantastic voyages of exploration and discovery. NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe reminds the world of NASA's role in the first century of flight, including the anticipated arrival of NASA's twin Mars Exploration Rovers, Spirit and Opportunity, on the surface of the red planet to begin their search for evidence of free flowing water in Mars' ancient history. He said: "While NASA will always aim toward the stars, we also hold dear our Agency's aviation roots, and our continuing involvement in efforts to make aviation safer and more efficient. Building on our 45-year history of helping to pioneer the air and space frontier, NASA will continue in the years and decades ahead to advance human progress on a number of exciting fronts as we pursue our ambitious mission goals."

▲ **ELV Update:** On Monday this week, the Flight Planning Board met and set April 20, 2004, as the new launch date for Gravity Probe B. A launch time hasn't been set. Other launch dates have been updated as well: **Aura**, from Vandenberg AFB, no earlier than June 20; **Swift**, from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, July 15.



## New launch dates for next 3 ELV launches

◆ **NASA voted one of best for multicultural business opportunities:** DiversityBusiness.com, one of the nation's leading multicultural business-to-business online portals, has voted NASA one of the top three government agencies for multicultural business. NASA followed the Small Business Administration and the Department of Defense in the annual on-line election by diversity business owners.

◆ **NASA Science News** – Earth is approaching Saturn for our closest encounter with the ringed planet in decades. The best time to look is when the clock strikes midnight on New Year's Eve. Read the full story at

[http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2003/12dec\\_saturn.htm](http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2003/12dec_saturn.htm)

◆ **Note Holiday Schedules – Medical clinics:** The Launch Area Clinic (LAC located in the MFF) and the Occupational Health Facility (OHF, M6-495) will be closed for the Christmas holidays from Dec. 24 through Jan. 1, 2004. They will both reopen on Friday, Jan. 2, 2004. The Visitor Center Clinic will be closed Dec. 25. On all other days during holidays, it will be open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. **Emergency medical services are available 24/7 by dialing 911.** **Shuttle bus service** will not be provided Dec. 22 – Jan. 2. Bus service resumes on Jan. 5.

◆ **Did You Know?** This will be the last issue of *KSC Countdown* for 2003. The next issue will be published Jan. 6, 2004. **Happy holidays to all!**